

Resolution on Voluntary Welfare Agencies

Adopted by the Council of the California Medical Association, November 20, 1949

Whereas, Numerous organizations devoted to the control of certain serious diseases are now in existence and others devoted to related purposes are in process of development, all tending to duplicate the work of existing public and semi-public agencies, and

Whereas, The programs of these groups frequently require the performance of free medical services, which physicians are happy to contribute so long as the programs are fundamentally sound, and

Whereas, There has grown up some duplication of effort in these programs which detracts from their medical and economic soundness, and

Whereas, Some of these programs already significantly influence the practice of medicine and may, if unchecked, lead to the socialization of the profession; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the California Medical Association on and after July 1, 1950, shall require review by the Council of all programs of the above type which are conducted in this state and which depend on the services of the medical profession for their successful operation, said review to be obtained within six months of the effective date of this resolution.

POLICIES RECOMMENDED BY CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTARY WELFARE AGENCIES

1. There should be an adequate number of physicians on the Governing Board of the Agency in order to render sound medical guidance. There should be a segregation of functions of the Board,

and that portion of the Board or sub-committee of the Board dealing with medical problems should have at least 50 per cent of its members chosen from practicing physicians licensed in the territory or state in which the agency functions or proposes to function. Participation by members of allied professions should be encouraged (dentists, nurses, public health workers, veterinarians, etc.).

2. The program should be designed so as *not to duplicate existing approved* welfare programs of the type contemplated. In this connection, established medical welfare agencies whose objectives duplicate each other should be encouraged to consolidate their work into one agency.

3. Education concerning disease, its prevention, early diagnosis and treatment should be the basic objective of such programs. An informed public tends to be an educated and discriminating public. *The basic objective of the program should be adequate education* in the public schools, and various adult associations in regard to the disease in question, its prevention, early diagnosis and care.

4. The group should not embark upon diagnostic or therapeutic ventures amongst those sections of the public not classified as needy or indigent, with the exception of communicable disease programs. The policy of the group should be that measures leading to the *further socialization of medicine be avoided*.

5. The overhead and number of paid employees of the group, professional or lay, shall be kept to a minimum consistent with efficient operation of the program. Financial details concerning the operation of such programs should be readily available to interested persons.

In Memoriam

ARMSTRONG, EUGENE LAWSON. Died in Los Angeles, January 25, 1950, aged 53, of cerebral hemorrhage. Graduate of Tulane University of Louisiana School of Medicine, New Orleans, 1920. Licensed in California in 1922. Dr. Armstrong was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

KANE, LOUIS MATTHEW. Died in Los Angeles, February 8, 1950, aged 65, of a heart ailment. Graduate of Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, 1912. Licensed in California in 1914. Dr. Kane was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

REEVES, JAMES WALTER. Died in Los Angeles, January 28, 1950, aged 64. Graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Los Angeles, 1913. Licensed in California in 1913. Dr. Reeves was a member of the Los Angeles County Med-

ical Association, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

SHRYOCK, ALFRED QUIMBY. Died in Loma Linda, January 3, 1950, aged 78, of cerebral thrombosis. Graduate of the American Medical Missionary College, Battle Creek, 1899. Licensed in California in 1911. Dr. Shryock was a retired member of the San Bernardino County Medical Society, and the California Medical Association.

SUMERLIN, HAROLD STANLEY. Died in Los Angeles, January 31, 1950, aged 58. Graduate of the Indiana University School of Medicine, Bloomington-Indianapolis, 1917. Licensed in California in 1924. Dr. Sumerlin was a member of the San Diego County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

UHLs, RUSSELL TODD. Died in Los Angeles, January 31, 1950, aged 61. Graduate of the University Medical College of Kansas City, 1911. Licensed in California in 1925. Dr. Uhls was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.